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To: <airportEIR@longbeach.gov>
cc:
Subject: Airport EIR and Proposed Expansion

Long Beach City Council,

Just a short note to let you know of my displeasure with the conclusions derived from the Long Beach Airport Expansion EIR. My family and I live at 5403 Daggett in Long Beach and are thus directly impacted by the decision of the council on airport matters. The current city noise ordinance is being broken on almost a daily basis (i.e. late-arriving flights), and thus for the council to trust in the validity of the ordinance to prevent additional flights in the future is laughable. It should be assumed that with the expansion of the airport, multiple airline carriers will pursue the legality of adding flights. One need only look at the demise of the cities of Lennox and Inglewood near LAX over the last twenty five years to understand the impact of substantial airport expansion on quality of life, real estate values, etc. On a more personal note, I have two children who currently attend Minnie Gant Elementary School which is directly underneath one Long Beach Airport landing pattern, and thus they are subjected daily to the pollutants rained down from commuter and commercial jets. For the EIR to conclude that commercial flights might increase in the future since jets will become quieter, without concluding that additional flights would also add immeasurable additional pollutants to the air is quite frankly irresponsible. Additionally, for the EIR to purport that a doubling of the size of the airport is actually more environmentally-friendly than to keep the airport at its current size is so ludicrous as to make one wonder what the true motivation for this EIR was. Finally, to limit public debate on this matter to a small number of sites during the holiday season when most individuals are harried and unable to participate in hearings smacks of an end-around perpetrated on the citizens of Long Beach. Hopefully, the council will remember that ultimately they are responsible for the long term health and safety of their city dwellers, and thus vigorously and stringently investigate the conclusions derived in the EIR. For the record, I am neither a member of LBHUSH2 or an unrealistic NIMBYist who is unwilling to allow for any modernizing of the airport. However, I can tell you that if misguided long-term decisions are made by the council my family and many others I know of will be forced to leave the city we have grown to love. Feel free to contact me in the future with any additional comments and questions regarding this matter.

Mike

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